

METHOD FOR RAISING FUNDS.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The availability of global round the clock information
5 emphasizes the need for a greater solidarity in helping
those who are struck by disaster or misfortune. Although
many governments and international aid agencies have put
aside funds to cover the first needs while storing
specific goods and medicine to be able to respond more
10 quickly to any distress call from countries or regions in
urgent need, it is a fact that in many cases the disaster
aid is delayed due to the lack of financial means while
the collecting of funds is delayed due to organizational
or administrative shortcomings.

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A consequential problem of this situation is that, due to
the overdose - and thus the volatility - of global round
the clock information, solidarity weakens by the hour.
Hence, the saying that every minute counts in disaster
20 relief does not only concern the disaster area, but in a
different context also the donator area.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention intends to decrease to a strict
25 minimum the time gap between the first call for
international aid and the starting of a campaign to raise
funds by using the existing means of wireless and wired
communication. Furthermore, many governments, aware of
the necessities of countries or regions in need, have

decided to create state lotteries that make use of the people's interest in gambling in order to generate funds that are also used to finance aid agencies or charity projects.

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This aspect is also part of the present invention as it creates the possibility to organize a lottery that draws one or several winners from those givers who contributed in raising the action-specific funds by reserving a part
10 of the collected funds for distribution to the winner(s) of the lottery. Another derivative of this invention is the creation of a pure lottery where none of the collected funds are spent on charity.

15 The present invention consists of a simple method for raising funds by using the existing communication means such as wired or wireless telephony, debit or credit or cash card terminals or the Internet. Whenever a communication link is made by for example a wired or
20 wireless telephone, a debit or credit or cash card reader, or through an on-line link on the Internet, the identity of the maker of this link is known due to the corresponding identification information allowing for instance the charging of the operational and the intended
25 costs.

A user of a fixed or cellular telephone will either receive an invoice for both the use and the duration of the respective telephone calls and the operational costs
30 related to it or will the corresponding amount see

charged through his credit card or debited from his bank account, a user of a debit or credit card will see his account charged with both the expenses made through this card and the operational costs related to it, a user of a cash card will see his card charged with both the expenses made through this card and the operational costs related to it, a user of an on-line link with the website of his financial institution will see his account charged with both the expenses made through this on-line link and the operational costs related to it, a user purchasing goods or services through an on-line link with a website will see his credit card account see charged with an amount that covers both the expenses made through this on-line link and the operational costs related to it. In all cases it is therefore possible to create an action-specific connection where the operational cost of the link is increased with a certain amount that is willingly and knowingly charged to the user.

20 This increase can either be a fixed amount, an amount that is selected from a variety of amounts proposed to the user, or an amount that is composed by the user himself.

25 A user of a fixed or wireless telephone could either choose from a variety of action-specific calling numbers where each number represents a different amount that will be charged supplementary to the operational costs, or could be invited after having called the action-specific calling number to choose from a variety of options which

he has to activate by pressing a number or a series of numbers, or could be invited after having called the action-specific calling number to compose himself the selected amount he would like to be charged with by
5 pressing the number corresponding with this amount.

Moreover, a user of a wireless telephone could be invited to send an SMS to the action-specific calling number and leave the message empty when he wants to be charged with
10 the fixed amount or type the amount he wants to be charged with.

A user of a pay phone could either choose from a variety of action-specific calling numbers where each number
15 represents a different amount that he has to pay in cash before his connection would be accepted, or could be invited after having called the action-specific calling number to choose from a variety of options which he has to activate by pressing a number or a series of numbers
20 and introduce the corresponding cash, or could be invited after having called the action-specific calling number to introduce as many cash as he wants to donate, the inconvenience of this being that in none of these situations the identity of the donator is known.

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A user of a debit or credit or cash card can after having introduced his card in the corresponding card reader and where necessary having pressed his PIN-code to enter the system be invited to select an option button referring to
30 the specific action where he could choose from a variety

of options such as the selection of one field from a series of fields representing different action-specific amounts that will be charged to his account or deducted from his cash card, or a field allowing him to compose himself the selected amount he would like to be charged with by pressing the number corresponding with this amount. A user of an on-line Internet link with a website related to the specific action can either after having given the requested information on his credit card or after having entered his security login code(s) to enter the concerned system be invited to select an option button referring to the specific action where he could choose from a variety of options such as the selection of one field from a series of fields representing different action-specific amounts that will be charged to his account or deducted from his credit or debit card, or a field allowing him to compose himself the selected amount he would like to be charged with by pressing the number corresponding with this amount.

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In all cases, with the exception of the cash payment on a cash-accepting telecommunication device, the identity of the maker of the link is known or traceable. Hence, when a periodic list is made of all makers of a link, in essence all givers, it is possible to draw from this list one or several winners and thus create a lottery based on the principle of fundraising as is explained herewith, and either use a part or the whole of the raised funds less the operational costs as prize money. The previous is given as an example without any limitative character of a preferred embodiment of a method.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 is a block diagram showing a general arrangement of a fundraising method and the thereof resulting combined and pure lottery according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGURE 2 is a view showing a flow chart for illustrating the flow of processing of the fundraising part as shown in FIG. 1;

10 FIGURE 3 is a view showing a flow chart for illustrating the flow of processing of the fundraising part in combination with a lottery as shown in FIG. 1;

FIGURE 4 is a view showing a flow chart for illustrating the flow of processing of the pure lottery shown in FIG. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the following, the present invention will be described in detail in conjunction with exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 shows a block diagram of a general arrangement of a fundraising method and the thereof resulting combined and pure lottery. In figure 1, a reference numeral 1 denotes a giver or donator, or in the case of a lottery a player.

Numeral 2 denotes a data processing entity, which can either be a telecommunication company or a financial institution or a lottery company or an institution related to the fundraising, which is connected to the giver 1 by a wired or wireless link 11 representing the flow of the debit order from the giver to the collecting data processing entity of both the operational cost and the action-specific amount.

Numeral 3 denotes a receiver, or in the case of a lottery its organizer, which is connected to the data processing entity by a signal line 12 representing the flow of the credit order from the raised funds from the data processing entity to the receiver less the operational costs of the data processing entity, or in the case of a lottery to its organizer.

In the case of a fundraising combined with a lottery, numeral 4 denotes the charity where signal line 13 represents the flow of the raised funds to be distributed to the charity projects financed by the receiver less his operational costs 3, while numeral 5 denotes the winner(s) of the lottery where signal line 14 represents the flow of the prize money to be distributed to the winner(s) by the lottery organizer 3 less his operational costs.

FIG. 2 shows in a flow chart a processing flow of the fundraising part where reference numeral 21 represents the linking of the giver to the action-specific

connection at the data processing entity which is a fixed or wireless connection made by for example a fixed or wireless telephone, a credit or debit or cash card terminal, or an on-line link with a website related to the specific action.

Reference numeral 22 represents the confirmation of the link with the action-specific connection at the data processing entity and either consists of the simple establishment of the connection or the confirmation of the selected option made by the giver. Reference numeral 23 represents the disconnection from the action-specific connection at the data processing entity. Reference numeral 22.1 represents the transfer by the data processing entity to the receiver of the action specific amount less the operational costs of the data processing entity. Reference numeral 22.2 represents the distribution of the action-specific amount to the respective charity projects less the operational costs of the receiver.

FIG. 3 shows in a flow chart a processing flow of the fundraising part combined with a lottery where reference numeral 31 represents the linking of the giver to the action-specific connection at the data processing entity which is a fixed or wireless connection made by for example a fixed or wireless telephone, a credit or debit or cash card terminal, or an on-line link with a website related to the specific action.

Reference numeral 32 represents the confirmation of the link with the action-specific connection at the data processing entity and either consists of the simple establishment of the connection or the confirmation of
5 the selected option made by the giver.

Reference numeral 33 represents the storing of the givers' identification on a secure memory at the data processing entity. Reference numeral 34 represents the
10 disconnection from the action-specific connection at the data processing entity. Reference numeral 33.1 represents the transfer by the data processing entity to the receiver of the action specific amount less the operational costs of the data processing entity.

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Reference numeral 33.4 represents the transfer of the stored list of the givers from the data processing entity to the receiver. Reference numeral 33.5 represents the draw of the winner(s) of the lottery by the receiver.
20 Reference numeral 33.2 represents the distribution of part of the action-specific amount to the respective charity projects less the operational costs of the receiver.

25 Reference numeral 33.3 represents the distribution of part of the action-specific amount to the winner(s) of the lottery prize less the operational costs of the receiver.

FIG. 4 shows in a flow chart a processing flow of the pure lottery where reference numeral 41 represents the linking of the player to the action-specific connection at the data processing entity which is a fixed or wireless connection made by for example a fixed or wireless telephone, a credit or debit or cash card terminal, or an on-line link with a website related to the specific action.

Reference numeral 42 represents the confirmation of the link with the action-specific connection at the data processing entity and either consists of the simple establishment of the connection or the confirmation of the selected option made by the player.

Reference numeral 43 represents the storing of the players' identification on a secure memory at the data processing entity.

Reference numeral 44 represents the disconnection from the action-specific connection at the data processing entity. Reference numeral 44.1 represents the transfer by the data processing entity to the receiver of the action specific amount less the operational costs of the data processing entity. Reference numeral 44.4 represents the transfer of the stored list of the players from the data processing entity to the receiver. Reference numeral 44.5 represents the draw of the winner(s) of the lottery by the receiver. Reference numeral 44.3 represents the distribution of the totality of the action-specific

amount to the winner(s) of the lottery prize less the operational costs of the receiver.

Although several specific embodiments of the invention
5 have been described, the invention is not limited by those descriptions, and rather it is to be construed in accordance with the attached claims.